

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 Canceled

Claims 20-25 Canceled (without prejudice)

Claims 26-68 Canceled

69. (Presently Amended) A method of treating cardiac arrhythmia using epicardial ablation comprising the steps of:

providing a gripper device having a plurality of arms, each arm having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein at least one of said arms is moveable relative to the other arm, the gripper device also having an ablator disposed on said inner surface of at least one of said moveable arms;

gripping an epicardial surface around an external surface of a circumference of the heart with the gripper device to encircle a portion of the heart on the epicardial surface; and

applying said ablator to said epicardial surface such that cardiac conductive tissue is ablated ~~around~~ to create a lesion which encircles the heart around the circumference of the heart.

70. Canceled

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69 wherein said step of applying said ablator comprises applying radio frequency energy to said ablator.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69 wherein said step of applying said ablator comprises applying laser energy to said ablator.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69 wherein said step of applying said ablator comprises applying ultrasound energy to said ablator.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the providing step is carried out with a plurality of ablators disposed on said inner surface of both arms.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69 wherein the providing step is carried out with a linearly disposed plurality of electrodes.